

OTTER POINT & SHIRLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (OPSRRA) INFORMATION UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2003

Do you want to receive the OPSRRA newsletter directly to your e-mail address? OPSRRA is now e-mailing this newsletter to interested members.

Contact Arnie Campbell at: d.acampbell@shaw.ca if you want to receive this service.

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SHIRLEY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Date: Sunday, November 9th

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Shirley Community Hall (West Coast Rd. at Sheringham Point Rd.)

LISTING SERVICE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES ON OPSRRA'S WEB SITE

OPSRRA is offering a free business listing service for members on its web site: www.opsrra.com. Non-members can be listed for a suitable donation!

The purpose of this service is to provide an opportunity for businesses in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point to advertise their goods and services to their local community. And in return, allow the local community to see and support the wonderful variety of local entrepreneurs. We anticipate having listings for accommodation, farm produce, art, furniture, fishing charters, eco tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing and more. More information and a registration form are available on OPSRRA's web site under Business Listings.

BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURE OPEN HOUSES AND PUBLIC FORUMS

The Boundary Restructure committee has spent over a year looking at the advantages and disadvantages of amalgamating Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River and East Sooke with the District of Sooke. The committee has now reached a point where they need to meet with the residents of the rural area to:

1. Share what they have found-out.

2. Determine what other information is needed before a possible referendum.
3. Hear the views (pro/con) of rural residents on the proposed amalgamation.

The format will be the same at each of the 3 locations: a drop-in open house from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. hosted by Tom Reid from Sussex Consulting (the company that has done the background research for the committee). The drop-in session will be followed by a public forum starting at 7:00 p.m. Members of the Boundary Restructure committee will be in attendance at the public forum to help Tom Reid answer questions and listen to concerns.

Dates: Wednesday, November 5th @ the Otter Point Fire Hall

 Wednesday, November 12th @ the Shirley Community Hall

 Tuesday, November 18th @ the East Sooke Fire Hall

What happens next? Following these public meetings, the Boundary Restructure committee will:

1. Vote on whether it should recommend that the province hold a referendum on amalgamation.
2. If the committee recommends an amalgamation referendum and the province agrees, then there will be a second round of public information sessions followed by a referendum in the rural areas: likely in February of 2004.
3. If the rural referendum does not support an amalgamation with the District of Sooke the process stops.
4. If the referendum favours amalgamation, then Sooke Councils will take the idea of a proposed amalgamation to a referendum for voters in the District of Sooke.
5. If this vote were to pass, amalgamation would likely be completed by the fall of 2004.

For further information contact the following rural representatives to the Boundary Restructure committee.

Shirley: Sue Smee (Ph. 646-2298)

Otter Point: Bruce Lemire-Elmore (Ph. 642-5607) or Arnie Campbell (Ph. 642-3113)

PROPOSED LOGGING NEAR POIRIER LAKE

Timber West has notified residents in the vicinity of Poirier Lake that they intend to log 4 to 5 hectares of their property between the end of October and mid November. This parcel of land fronts onto the south side of Poirier Lake next to the Otter Point log sort - also owned by TimberWest. OPSRRA has written the company asking that they remain 30 metres away from the edge of the lake, as it is a source of drinking water and a fish habitat. CRD Bylaw 2366 (the Otter Point/Shirley Local Area Plan) states that: "In order to protect groundwater levels and protect water in creeks and lakes, protection must be given to marshes, ponds and runoffs. There should be no significant construction or clearing within 15 metres (50 feet) of such bodies of water." Poirier Lake is specifically mentioned in this bylaw as being a protected body of water.

PROPOSED “PESTICIDE” SPRAYING BY TIMBERWEST

OPSRRA has met with a representative of TimberWest to confirm where they intend to use pesticide sprays under their recently approved provincial Pest Management Application permits (No. 103-596 and 103-597). TimberWest has identified two areas where they may be using the herbicides Vision and Release to control alder, broom, salal, huckleberry and salmonberry in their recently replanted woodlands. One area is adjacent to Anderson Rd. and the other is north of Otter Point Pl. TimberWest will be assessing these two sites during November and will advise OPSRRA about their intended brushing and weeding plans for 2004. OPSRRA has suggested that manual, instead of chemical, brushing and weeding should be used because of the proximity to human settlement (i.e. drinking water, gardens, fruit trees, livestock, etc.).

LOT AVERAGING

OPSRRA members passed a motion at the October membership meeting, opposing the use of lot averaging. The Otter Point and Shirley Local Area Plan (CRD Bylaw 2366) states that: “Lot averaging must not be permitted, even in the case of large parcels of land.” However, provincial legislation allows lot averaging and takes precedence over the CRD bylaw. One of the concerns with lot averaging is that the required covenant that is placed upon the land title - legally preventing further development upon the unused portion, can be considered for removal by Land Use Committee “A”, following a public hearing.

LOCAL AREA PLANS

The members of the Shirley/Jordan River Official Community Plan committee will be announced by the regional director in November; work on that OCP should begin in the New Year. The committee for the Otter Point OCP has not been appointed. The regional director informed the OPSRRA membership, at its October meeting, that there is no definite start date for the Otter Point OCP as funding has yet to be approved. All of the OCPs in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area have to be completed by August 2005. Completing an OCP takes at least a year and perhaps longer.

OPSRRA

OPSRRA is a representative community organization with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of the residents of the rural communities of Shirley and Otter Point to local government. It was founded in 1992 and has a membership of about 350. **Lifetime memberships are \$5.00** and available from OPSRRA directors—see our web site (www.opsrra.com) for further information.

The purpose of our society is to:

1. Ensure that the development of the two communities of Shirley and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
2. Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
3. Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
4. Encourage citizens to stand for public office.

5. Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Ken Pungente	President	Arnie Campbell	Vice President
Wendy Miller	Secretary/Treasurer		
Byron Tweedy	Director	Mitch Moneo	Director
Virginia Boyd	Director	Wendy Morton	Director
Frances Stocks	Director		

This newsletter is published monthly on the www.opsrra.com web page by OPSRRA—the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Association. Comments or requests to have information included in the newsletter can be directed to Arnie Campbell, Vice President. Phone: (250) 642-3113 or e-mail d.acampbell@shaw.ca